

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claim 8.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1    1. (Currently Amended) A tool comprising:

2        ~~at least one substantially flat portion including:~~

3        ~~at least one slot that opens to an edge of the substantially flat portion; and~~

4        ~~at least one hole~~

5        a first substantially flat portion having a length and a width less than the length,

6        the length of the first portion defining first and second ends and a first axis along the

7        length of the first portion, the first portion lying in a first plane;

8        a second substantially flat portion having a length and a width less than the length,

9        the length of the second portion defining first and second ends and a second axis along

10      the length of the second portion, the second portion lying in the first plane;

11      a connecting portion having a length and a width, the length of the connecting

12      portion defining first and second ends and a third axis along the length of the connecting

13      portion, the first end of the connecting portion being coupled to the second end of the first

14      portion and the second end of the connecting portion being coupled to the first end of the

15      second portion such that the first, second and third axes are in a straight line, the

16      connecting portion extending above the first plane, wherein the first and second portions

17      are separate portions connectedly only by the connecting portion; and

18      wherein the first and second portions comprise at least one slot that opens to an

19      edge and at least one hole.

1    2. (Original) The tool of claim 1 wherein the at least one slot is tapered.

1    3. (Original) The tool of claim 1 comprising a plurality of holes.

1     4. (Original) The tool of claim 3 wherein the plurality of holes include holes of different  
2     sizes.

1     5. (Original) The tool of claim 1 further comprising a measurement scale near an edge of  
2     the tool.

1     6. (Original) The tool of claim 1 further comprising at least one tapered edge.

1    7. (Currently Amended) A tool comprising:

2            a first substantially flat portion comprising at least one slot that opens to an edge  
3 of the first portion;

4            a second substantially flat portion lying in substantially the same plane as the first  
5 portion, the second portion comprising at least one hole; and

6            a connecting portion that connects the first and second portions, the connecting  
7 portion extending above the plane of the first and second portions and having no portion  
8 in the plane of the first and second portions, wherein the first and second portions are  
9 separate portions connected only by the connecting portion.

1    8. (Cancelled)

1    9. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim [[8]] 7 wherein the first portion further  
2 comprises at least one hole.

1    10. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim [[8]] 7 wherein the at least one slot is  
2 tapered.

1    11. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 7 wherein the second portion further  
2 comprises at least one slot that opens to an edge of the second portion.

1    12. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 11 wherein the second portion further  
2 comprises ~~at least one hole~~ a plurality of holes.

1    13. (Original) The tool of claim 11 wherein at least one slot is tapered.

1    14. (Original) The tool of claim 11 further comprising a measurement scale near an edge  
2 of the tool.

1 15. (Original) The tool of claim 11 further comprising at least one tapered edge.

1 16. (Currently Amended) A tool comprising:

2 a first substantially flat portion, the first portion including at least one tapered slot

3 and at least one hole;

4 a second substantially flat portion lying in substantially the same plane as the first

5 portion, [[and]] the second portion including at least one tapered slot and at least one

6 hole; [[and]]

7 a connecting portion that connects the first and second portions, the connecting

8 portion extending above the plane of the first and second portions and having no portion

9 in the plane of the first and second portions, wherein the first and second portions are

10 separate portions connected only by the connecting portion;

11 a measurement scale near an edge of the tool;

12 at least one tapered edge;

13 wherein the first portion, second portion, and connecting portion are

14 monolithically formed from a substantially transparent plastic.

17-23 (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claims.

1 24. (New) The tool of claim 1 wherein the first portion, second portion, and connecting

2 portion are monolithically formed from a substantially transparent plastic.

1 25. (New) The tool of claim 7 wherein the first portion, second portion, and connecting

2 portion are monolithically formed from a substantially transparent plastic.